

**CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
MEMORANDUM**

DATE: November 2, 2001

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Creeks Restoration and Water Quality Improvement Program
Citizens Advisory Committee

**SUBJECT: RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE REQUESTS FROM OUTSIDE
ORGANIZATIONS**

At its regular meeting on October 17, 2001, the Creeks Restoration and Water Quality Improvement Citizens Advisory Committee (Advisory Committee) considered the requests from outside organizations for funds to implement youth education and creek restoration programs. Prior to this meeting the Advisory Committee heard presentations from these organizations at its regular meeting on September 19, 2001. The Advisory Committee deferred action on the requests until the meeting on October 17 in order to hear Staff recommendations.

Overall, the Committee expressed its strong support for providing funds to the organizations to demonstrate partnership and to support programs that implement the objectives of the Creeks Restoration and Water Quality Improvement Program as funded through proceeds from Measure B. General comments from Committee members included the importance of its role in sending well thought out recommendations that demonstrate fiscal responsibility, the consideration that funding would be a one-time consideration, and the importance of public outreach and education.

The following discussion outlines the Committee's recommendations to the City Council for requests from the Community Environmental Council, Growing Solutions, and UC Cooperative Extension.

Community Environmental Council

A majority of the Advisory Committee indicated that the Staff recommendations for funding levels were too low. They discussed the need to raise the allowable overhead for CEC to 20 percent rather than the Staff recommendation for 16 percent. This discussion occurred in the context of the lack of information as to the actual overhead costs that are directly attributable to the Watershed Resource Center and the inclusion of overall organization operations in the overhead rate of 42 percent. The motion to raise the allowable overhead costs from 16 to 20 percent failed 3 to 4. A substitute motion to fund an amount equal to the County's FY 2001 contribution (\$47,000) passed 5/2. The Committee's recommendation for providing \$47,000 is based in part on the lack of other sources of funding, an interest in the City acting as a full "fair

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share” partner and an understanding that this level of funding was a single year commitment only.

The dissenting Committee position was based on the argument that Committee recommendations need to be supported by justification for the numbers. Putting a recommendation forward because someone else gave the same amount would send the wrong message to City Council about the Committee’s earnestness to be responsible with the money they have stewardship over. It would also send the wrong message to the voters who approved Measure B and to those who were opposed to it.

The Advisory Committee supported 4 to 2 the Staff recommendation to provide CEC with \$2,700 in funds to cover the costs of bussing the school children to the Center for the field trips.

The Advisory Committee passed a motion by consensus, 6/0, to provide CEC with \$70,667 to support the exhibits in the Watershed Resource Center. This recommendation was based on the Committee’s support to provide 1/3 of the exhibit costs of \$212,000 and that the use of Measure B funds for the construction of exhibits supported the educational portion of the program.

The Advisory Committee supported in a motion that was approved 5/1 to provide a full fixed amount to the Creek Watchers program of \$9,900 that would support the youth education and monthly volunteer monitoring program. There was some discussion about limiting overhead costs to 20 percent to be fiscally prudent.

Growing Solutions

The Advisory Committee expressed concern with the level of funding contained within the Staff Recommendation, noting that the program was vitally important to providing native plants from local seed stock for restoration projects. There was extensive discussion about the potential relationship between Growing Solutions and the City in the growing of native plants for the City’s restoration projects and the City’s interest in establishing a location to grow plants for these projects. The Committee urged City staff to work with Growing Solutions to identify a city-owned site for plant propagation and return to the Committee with a supplemental proposal to fund a collaborative effort. With this understanding, the Committee agreed (6/0) with the staff recommendation to provide Growing Solutions with funds for their high school Healthy Habitat program in the amount of \$12,150.

UC Cooperative Extension

The Advisory Committee unanimously (5/0) recommended that the City support the \$5,000 request from UC Cooperative Extension for the after school watershed education program. Committee members expressed support for developing partners that have expertise with the Latino community and providing Spanish language materials.